

RM-10313 Sky Command

I concur with Kenwood's comments concerning the legality of their Sky Command system. Like many others, I have read the rules concerning auxiliary operation on 2 meters and find that Sky Command could fit in. The 2 meter portion of the Sky Command system is really a simplex operation. Should it interfere with other stations, the user can turn it off just as if he were using his normal 2 meter simplex radio. It is, in a sense, similar to using a wireless microphone combined with a packet radio.

The ARRL's (I am a member) position is shortsighted. Their fear of overcrowding is not justified. There are more hams per square mile in Japan than anywhere on Earth. Japanese ham friends have told me that there have been no Sky Command problems in Japan. Some amateurs are just resistant to change.

Hams like to believe that we are on the cutting edge of technology. We should be encouraged to experiment with new technologies like Sky Command. It opens up a number of interesting possibilities. Talking to someone on the other side of the world from a handie-talkie is an impressive feat that could be put use in a number of applications, including emergency communications.

Sky Command will not cause the problems that its detractors have raised. Legal or not, many hams already use cross-band repeat radios to operate on 2 meters and that has not had a significant impact. The impact of Sky Command will be even smaller.

I support Kenwood's reasonable position and hope that you will find in their favor. Thank you for your attention.

Best regards,

Don Young N2DY